

Architectural Medals!

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It's time for another installment of our always-popular architectural medals, with this upload featuring a number of large-format 59mm issues from the Wieners, as well as some that are even larger—if *that can be believed*. To start off, here's an example of one of the most hotly-collected from the "Most Remarkable Edifices of Europe" series, the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris...



Staying within the city of Paris, we have another offering from the series, that of the Church of St. Geneviève, or the Panthéon, which presents an impressive Neoclassical flair in its centered exterior view of the edifice on the obverse...



Switching over to some of the medals that are one-offs by the Wieners and not specifically a part of the aforementioned series, we have this duo of larger-sized medals pertaining to Liège. Up first is one that commemorates the Bishop of Liège, Cornelius

Richard Anton van Bommel, and features a very ornate interior view of St. Paul's Cathedral. The immense size, at 74mm in diameter, allows for very intricate and in-depth artistry...



Similarly, a work done just a few years prior focuses instead upon St. Martin's Basilica and the 600th anniversary of the Fête-Dieu (Corpus Christi) festival held there, with an impressive interior view of the basilica paired with a similarly-impressive reverse. It is almost impossible to comprehend the degree of skill that was needed to create such small, minute detail and lettering on this piece, as each time that you look closely, you discover an element that had previously missed. Though there is a small, old abrasion on the floor, this piece does not come up often, as can be seen by the Coin Galleries auction record from 2009, where a similar example realized a total of \$1,380...



Lastly, we take a departure away from the Wieners, casting attention to a contemporary rival with respect to the architectural motif—that of Bianchi. During the mid-19th century, some rather intricate medals were created celebrating various architectural aspects within the Papal States, with this interior rendition of St. Peter's Basilica being an absolute show-stopper...



One must really see the zoomed-in version in order to fully appreciate its detail, and view the in-hand videos just to fully grasp its scale and size. What's more, the reverse depth is rather dramatic, creating about as impressive 3-D effects as you're going to get—with Bianchi paralleling the negative space on their reverse with the corresponding relief of the pope's bust on the obverse. Not only is this a true work of art, it is also a technical masterpiece in the world of struck specimens.

For all of this upload's items, please click [here](#) or on the banner art at the top of the newsletter, and be sure to stay tuned for our next upload at the beginning of August, when we will be returning to our typical mix of art and historical medals. Also, regarding our recent note about slower image load speeds on the site, the problem should be alleviated, *for the most part*. Though there is still some very minor lag, the culprit appears to have been all of the videos related to each item. For items now sold and archived, any accompanying videos have been deleted in order to free up space and allow things to run more smoothly. Videos for items still in inventory will continue as usual.



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